

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed December 28, 2007. Claims 1-43 are pending in the Application.

The Specification of the Application is objected to for containing various informalities.

Claim 42 is objected to for containing various informalities.

Claims 1-11, 13, 15-32, 34, and 36-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Trudel et al. (US 2004/0190444).

Claims 12, 14, 33, and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to these rejections, Claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 14, 21, 29, 31, 34, 35, 42, and 43 have been amended and Claims 7, 9, 11, 12, 28, 30, 32, and 33 have been canceled to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments and the arguments presented herein, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

Specification of the Application

The Specification of the Application is objected to for containing various informalities. These informalities are corrected hereby.

Claim 42

Claim 42 is objected to for containing various informalities. These informalities are corrected hereby.

Claims 1-11, 13, 15-32, 34, and 36-43 – 35 U.S.C. 102(e) – Trudel et al.

Claims 1-11, 13, 15-32, 34, and 36-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Trudel et al. (US 2004/0190444).

Independent Claims 1, 21, 42, and 43 have been amended to recite the elements/limitations of objected to, but otherwise allowable, dependent Claims 12 and 33, as well as intervening Claims 7, 9, 11, 28, 30, and 32, all of which have been canceled.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-11, 13, 15-32, 34, and 36-43 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Trudel et al. (US 2004/0190444) has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn, all pending claims now being allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 9, 2008

/s/ Christopher L. Bernard /
Christopher L. Bernard
Registration No.: 48,234
Lawrence A. Baratta, Jr.
Registration No.: 59,553
Attorneys for Applicants

CLEMENTS | WALKER
1901 Roxborough Road, Suite 300
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211 USA
Telephone: 704.366.6642
Facsimile: 704.366.9744
cbernard@worldpatents.com